

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1912.

EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING.

Broadway, New York city, is in for a great trimming, says the New York Evening Sun. No previous shaving of the faces of the buildings in that city has been anything like the one that is promised now. The barber is George A. McAneny, president of the Borough of Manhattan, who will present a resolution to the Board of Estimates asking for the removal of all encroachments beyond the building line on Broadway from the Battery up to Columbus Circle, and on the entire length of Maiden Lane, Cortlandt, Vesey and Dye streets, and on Liberty street, from Pearl to West street.

This means that the pretentious approaches, steps and areaways of some of the biggest office buildings and skyscrapers will have to be lopped off, if the resolution is adopted as expected. Hundreds of show windows will have to be repressed. The people of New York may be said to be again getting back their own. For years encroachments on the public sidewalks under the guise of "special privileges," surreptitiously or otherwise obtained, has been going on until conditions reached such a stage that all regard for public rights in the sidewalks were apparently ignored.

Many Broadway property owners will now have cause to repent of the folly of taking advantage of a "special privilege." The cost of moving back, to within the legal limits, of their property will more than offset the temporary advantage to trespass upon the public rights. No property owner, private or corporate, has any right to go beyond the deed line of his property with a building, and there is no power vested in a city or town government authorizing the granting of any such rights.

The town or city council that illegally exceeds its powers and grants such a privilege does more than establish a bad precedent. Such actions are liable to prosecutions in the courts, and there is not much doubt, but on the demand of any citizen the Town Council would be legally obliged to order the building back from off the Broad street sidewalk. There seems to be some confused notions about building lines along streets. A building line is either the result of a mutual agreement on the part of property owners to conform to a uniform line, or it is something that has been established through recognition and custom. The town authorities have no more legal right to compel a property owner to keep any special distance inside of his deed line than they have to grant him a privilege to go out beyond his deed line.

The savings banks special "privilege" should be revoked by the council and the managers ordered to move the bank building off the street. The granting of the "special privilege" is beyond question a matter that can be taken to the grand jury for purposes of indictment. The way to avoid that predicament is to order the bank building put back.

The Duke's Visit.

The visit of the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, to Washington, D. C., was attended with all the ceremonials given by one country to the reigning prince of another. Although the Duke was in Washington but eight hours, it was undoubtedly the busiest eight hours the distinguished visitor has had in years. The presence of a brother of King Edward, an uncle of King George V., recalled the visit of the Duke's own brother, Baron Renfrew, Prince of Wales and afterwards Edward VII, to the National Capital in October, 1860. Baron Renfrew was the first of royalty to call on the President, while the Duke of Connaught was the tenth. It was very generally regretted that the Duke was not accompanied on his visit to Washington by the Duchess and his daughter, Princess Patricia, who is familiarly known as "Princess Pat" in the exclusive social circles of London, New York and Canada. The presence of the Duke of Connaught attracted so much attention in Washington, which would in all probability have been doubled had the ladies of the Duke's family accompanied him on his ceremonial visit to the head of the American nation.

He Won't Limp Now.
No more limping for Tom Moore of Cochran, Ga. "I had a bad sore on my instep that nothing seemed to help till I used Bucklen's Arnica Salve," he writes, "but this wonderful healer soon cured me." Heals old, running sores, ulcers, boils, tumors, cuts, bruises, eczema or piles. Try it. Only 25 cents at all druggists.

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NEW ACCOUNTS WELCOMED.**OFFICERS:**

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JOSEPH H. DODD, Vice-President.
F. WILLIAM KNOLHOFF, Treasurer.

Advance Improvement Work.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:
SIR—In laying out a new street and with a definite idea as to how the property along the street was to be developed, it would apparently be feasible to determine in advance the number and the location of excavations for sewer, water and gas connections and have them made in advance of the paving of the street. In an old established street which has been subject to a mixed and unregulated system of development it is a difficult problem to determine and map out advance work of the kind alluded to above, and it is also a questionable financial policy to undertake such work in advance of the necessity of it.

Bloomfield avenue is a case in point. Who can determine with any reasonable assurance that the present property owners along the avenue whose lots are not yet built upon will in the future require connections for sewer, gas and water for every twenty-five feet of frontage, and who is going to compel the gas company to make such connections in anticipation of a demand for them? Where does the town get the legal right to encumber property with liens for the cost of advance work of that character?

The idea of planning to prevent the future disturbance of a good pavement by doing all the possible street excavations in advance of the paving work is a good one, but where such conditions exist as now prevail in Bloomfield avenue it does not appear practical. It would be much better for all concerned if the method of laying sewer, water and gas mains in the driveway of a road was abandoned altogether and all such mains laid as close to the building line of the street as it is possible to place them.

In deciding to make all sewer, water and gas connections along Bloomfield avenue in advance of paving work the Town Council has undertaken a proposition that will prove difficult of solution. The council may in its own judgment determine that all these connections shall be placed in front of every twenty-five foot plot of ground along the avenue. In such an event there would be some vigorous opposition on the part of property owners.

PROPERTY OWNER.**Men's Club Banquet.**

The first annual banquet of the Men's Club of the Park Methodist Church was held in the parish hall of the church Thursday night, and was a very enjoyable affair. About one hundred and twenty-five people attended and enjoyed an excellent menu and some very interesting addresses. C. K. Snavely of the committee of arrangements was toastmaster. The first speaker called upon was William J. Shears, chairman of the banquet committee. He was followed by Geo. B. Wheaton, superintendent of the Sunday-school work. Former Governor J. Franklin Fort gave an interesting talk in which he complimented the Men's Club upon its work and particularly in its promotion of the social life of the church. The Rev. Edward Chively of East Orange gave a very happy address and highly pleased his hearers.

Fire Department Progress.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:
SIR: The path of progress is invariably beset with difficulties. The history of the Bloomfield Volunteer Fire Department is illustrative of that axiom. There are light-weight enthusiasts who are ever ready to proclaim that "there is nothing too good for the fire department," and "the firemen should have all they ask for." Fortunately for both the taxpayers and the firemen no such ill-considered gratuitous policy has ever prevailed in the administration of public affairs.

The firemen have at all times had to prove the necessity and utility of any demands they have made before they got the appropriations sufficiently enlarged to meet them. It took a large and disastrous fire to demonstrate to the people of this town that a fire department was needed at all. That was over twenty-five years ago, and every step of fire department development ever since has been more or less of a contested step. It took much argument and some hustling political work to get a fire alarm system introduced here. The replacing of jumpers with hose wagons was not an instantaneous change. If any one is of the opinion that things come easy to the firemen let him ask the chief engineer how many times he recommends certain things before he gets them. The horse problem, now confronting the fire department, is not a new one. Every fireman knows that it will be some time before the horse problem is satisfactorily solved.

It was a large hotel fire that demonstrated to the people the need of a fire department in the town and another large hotel fire during the current year demonstrated equally as forcibly that the fire department should be equipped with a steam engine. It may be an expensive step, but it is a necessary one. It will not take many experiences like the Rose hotel fire to demoralize the volunteer fire department. Conditions are such that sufficient water pressure to cope with a big fire cannot be depended upon from four-inch mains. There must be an auxiliary force like that of a steam engine.

School Law Repealer.

Senator Smalley introduced a bill in the State Senate Monday night which repeals the act passed last year providing for the abolition of school boards in many municipalities in the State. Several municipalities have threatened legal action to test the validity of the 1911 law and on Monday afternoon State School Commissioner Kendall and Assistant Commissioner Betts held a conference with Governor Wilson and it was deemed wise to repeal the 1911 act in order that a law more carefully drawn could be enacted.

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Glen Ridge Notes.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. W. Cocke entertained at cards Saturday evening at their home on Ridgewood avenue for Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Bush of Baltimore, who have been their guests for several days. There were six tables of five hundred in play.

Miss Mildred Byrom of South Hillside avenue had as her guest last week Miss Alma Suren of Boston.

Albert Bell of Morristown was the guest for the week-end of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hazeltine of Marston place.

Miss Marion Daniels of Midland avenue entertained informally last Saturday afternoon at auction bridge.

The members of the Monday Afternoon Bridge Club played this week at the residence of Mrs. Frank Goodwillie on Hillcrest road.

Among the boys of the junior department of the Montclair Y. M. C. A. a class has been organized for the study of aeronautics. It is called the Aero Club. The instructor is William Henry Hodgins of Glen Ridge.

The Finance Committee of the Glen Ridge Borough Council held a meeting Tuesday night.

The Tuesday Evening Auction Bridge Club met this week at the residence of Miss Edna See of Ridgewood avenue.

Mrs. C. C. Hurlbut of Lincoln street was hostess for one of the Monday afternoon bridge clubs.

Mrs. R. R. Ripley and daughter, who have been the guests for several weeks of Mrs. Charles A. Bartholomew of High street, have returned to their home near Boston.

Miss Agnes Ryan of New York, formerly of Glen Ridge, has been the guest for several days of Miss Dorothy Kelley of Rudd court.

James Jay Smith of Ridgewood avenue has returned from a Southern trip.

Miss Belle Lobenstein, who has been the guest of Miss Alletta Williams of Ridgewood avenue, has returned to her home in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. S. Reader, who have been spending the week-end with friends in New Haven, have returned to their home in Hillside avenue.

Miss Dorothy Langstroth of Winsor place was hostess for the Younger Set's Monday Bridge Club.

"The Readers" met Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. J. F. Murch of Hillside avenue.

G. W. Meade has sold his residence in Ridgewood avenue to Lewis V. Benson of New York. Mr. Meade, who has bought a home on Hillside avenue, will take possession in the spring.

A dance for young people has been arranged to take place in the Glen Ridge Club February 14.

Glen Ridge Hook-and-Ladder Company met last night. It is expected that the new chemical engine will arrive in the borough Monday.

The department of English literature of the Woman's Club of Glen Ridge met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. G. F. Brown, Jr., 50 Franklin place. The subject was "Oliver Wendell Holmes."

Miss Mamie Smith, who has been visiting on Long Island, has returned to her home in Ridgewood avenue.

Ten tables were in play at the bridge given at the Glen Ridge Club Tuesday afternoon. The prize winners were Mrs. Charles W. Yates, Mrs. Thomas L. Masson and Miss Lee. Buffet refreshments were served at the close of the game.

To Block Imhoff Tank.

A legislative bill providing that on municipality shall place a sewage disposal plant in the territory of another is being framed by the legislative committee of Nutley, Belleville and this town, as a move in the fight against proposed Imhoff sewage disposal tank in the Soho section of Belleville. The committee is composed of the mayors and presidents of the Boards of Health of the three opposing towns.

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